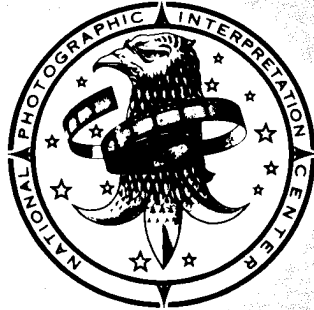


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**NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC
INTERPRETATION CENTER**

**Summary
Report**

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**COMMUNICATIONS BATTALION
NEWLY IDENTIFIED NEAR
KHABAROVSK SIGNAL BRIGADE
HEADQUARTERS/BARRACKS
AL-24, USSR (TSR)**

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SR-034/78

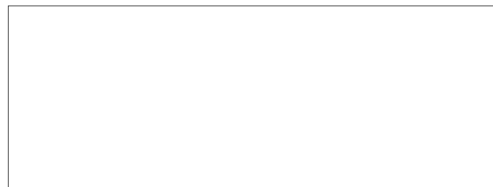
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DISSEMINATION CONTROL ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|-------------|---|
| NOFORN- | Not Releasable to Foreign Nationals |
| NOCONTRACT- | Not Releasable to Contractors or Contractor/Consultants |
| PROPIN- | Caution-Proprietary Information Involved |
| USIBONLY- | USIB Departments Only |
| ORCON- | Dissemination and Extraction of Information Controlled by Originator |
| REL ... | This Information has been Authorized for Release to ... |

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COMMUNICATIONS BATTALION NEWLY IDENTIFIED NEAR Khabarovsk Signal Brigade Headquarters/Barracks AL-24, USSR (TSR)

(TSR) [] a newly identified communications unit was observed in an exercise 3.7 nautical miles (nm) north of Khabarovsk Signal Brigade Headquarters/Barracks AL-24 [] in the Far East Military District, USSR (Figure 1). This unit (Figure 2), designated by NPIC as a communications battalion, consisted of the following equipment (not all annotated): two BTR-60PA armored command vehicles (one possible), nine R-140 radio vans, three long-range communications sets, two R-409 CATS PAW radio vans, one possible R-409 CATS EYE radio van, one possible R-400 series radio van truck, three P-299M-type communications center vehicles, 15 van trucks, three cargo trucks, and three generator trailers.

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(TSR) A newly identified vehicle, designated by NPIC as the KH-1 computer electronics van, was also seen with this unit. This sighting of the van in a communications exercise was the first observation of the van on overhead photography. The van is [] with a 1- by 3-meter structure mounted on the forward portion and two sets of possible vents on the roof (inset, Figure 2).

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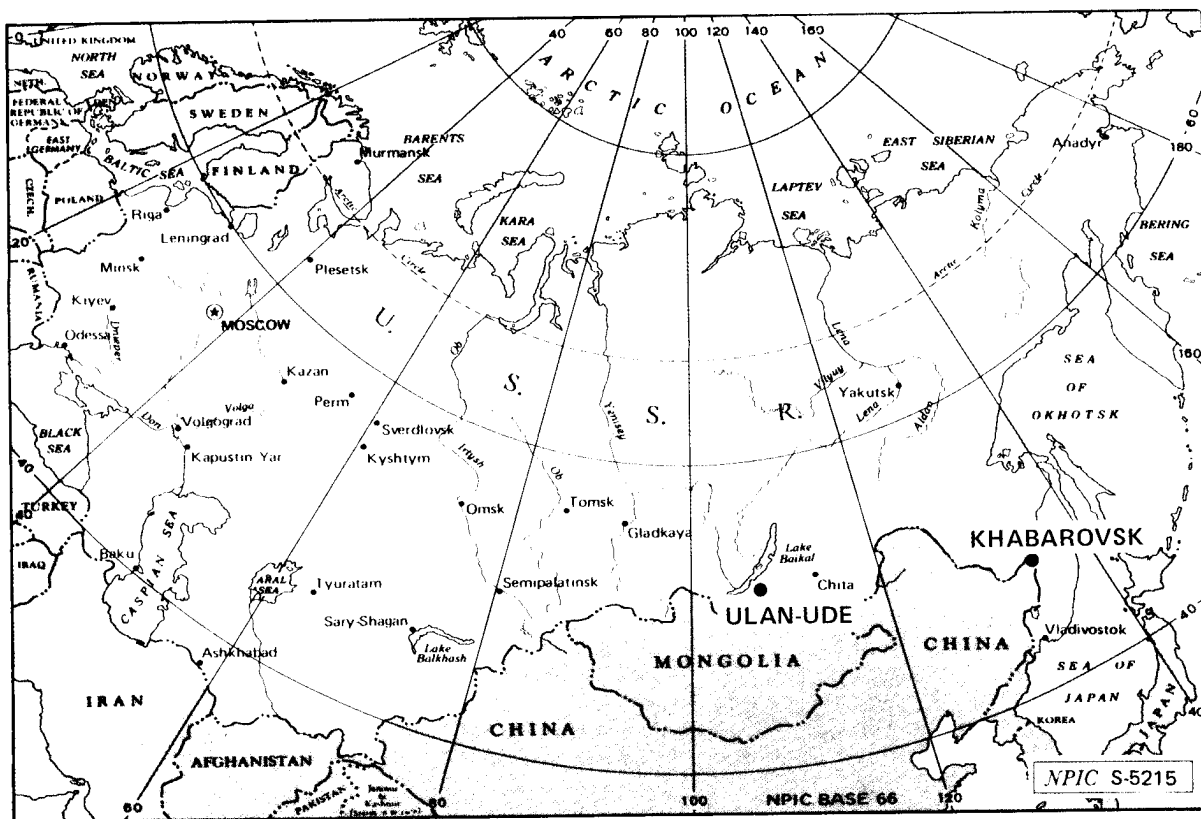


FIGURE 1. LOCATIONS OF COMMUNICATIONS BATTALIONS, USSR

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Top Secret RUFF [REDACTED]

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(S/WNINTEL) All of this equipment was near the Anastasyevka Radio Communications (Radcom) Transmitter Station [REDACTED] in an area used for training by Khabarovsk Signal Brigade Headquarters/Barracks AL-24.

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(TSR) Another part of the exercise was seen 3.3 nm south of the communications battalion. The equipment observed there included two mobile communications satellite (comsat) stations, one R-102M set and one R-102M van, one R-401/403 radio van, one R-401/405 radio van, one P-299M-type communications center vehicle, 23 van trucks, two generator van trucks, and three trailers. The equipment (Figures 3 and 4) in this area was approximately 0.4 nm east of Khabarovsk barracks AL-24. This equipment is probably organic to the communications battalion.

(TSR [REDACTED]) With the exception of the newly identified 8-meter KH-1 computer/electronics van, the equipment observed in the communications battalion exercise near Khabarovsk barracks AL-24 was similar in numbers and types to the equipment in a communications battalion (Figure 5) observed in garrison at Ulan-Ude 9th RVGK (Reserves of the Soviet Supreme High Command) Signal Brigade AL-3 [REDACTED] Ulan-Ude 9th RVGK Signal Brigade AL-3 has been associated with the RVGK through collateral intelligence information¹ and through photographic identification of a MERCURY PLATE radio relay battalion and other support units.² A MERCURY PLATE unit was observed in an exercise 0.2 nm southwest of Khabarovsk barracks AL-24 [REDACTED]. This unit contained only six sets of MERCURY PLATE equipment compared to the 14 sets currently associated with a battalion-sized unit. However, the sighting of a communications battalion and MERCURY PLATE equipment near Khabarovsk suggests the possibility of an RVGK unit in the area.

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(TSR) [REDACTED] a communications exercise was observed in the Chita area, 5 nm north of Chita Army Barracks East Central AL-6 [REDACTED] and 3 nm west-northwest of Chita Radcom Station Kashtak [REDACTED]. This exercise is believed to have been a front-level exercise, but the equipment observed included what appeared to be the new 8-meter KH-1 computer/electronics van seen in the Khabarovsk exercise. Image quality and area coverage precluded a thorough comparison of the two exercises. NPIC has not as yet identified any MERCURY PLATE units in the Chita area. Also, no available intelligence information has indicated an RVGK association in the Chita area.

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REFERENCES

- [REDACTED] 25X1
2. NPIC [REDACTED] SR-032/78, *MERCURY PLATE Battalion Deployed at Ulan-Ude 9th RVGK Signal Brigade AL-3, USSR (TSR)*, Apr 78 (TOP SECRET RUFF [REDACTED]) 25X1

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